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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### From the Magnolia.

## THE WARLIKE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

This is a subject of vast interest and importance to the American people. It is a matter in itself of transcendent magnitude, and in its connexion with the present welfare and future destiny of the republic, no topic that an American pen, or the declamation of the Senate, has elucidated, could be regarded as comparable to it, in the gigantic proportion of its details, or the grandeur of its results, as they relate to the security and permanence of the democratic principle. The people of the United States, as a whole, have developed upon them a degree of responsibility in the maintenance of their rights of self-government, of which there is no parallel in the condition or history of any other nation of ancient or modern times. Thus far, this responsibility, however it may have been subject to occasional menaces on the part of not-headed fiction, has continued to sustain the most rigid trials of its tenacity—its expansive and contractive qualities—and its capacity to cope successfully with all the vicissitudes of a broad and large national existence. We have passed safely through the ordeal of wars conducted upon an enlarged scale of military operations, by land and sea—and what is yet a stronger test of national cohesion, we have passed through several political conjunctures, which involved crises where the most fearful consequences were anticipated, and where, but for the remarkable intelligence that prevails in the body of the people, and the patriotism, which, like a presiding genius, guides their counsels, the most alarming evils would have been inevitable. The time has been, when calculations were entered into, to learn how far certain States might be able to resist imputed aggression of the general government—and the enquiry upon this subject, has usually been as unsatisfactory as if our country were governed by the haughty arrogance of an eastern despotism. The systems of government by which we have our being, as a political community, local and national, require that full information should be conveyed to the minds of the people, not merely as to the variety, and extent of their abstract political rights, but also as to their means and ability to maintain their just position among the nations of the earth. Nothing can tend more directly to infuse a feeling of self-confidence and security in a people, than a knowledge founded upon obvious facts, that they have abundant means and capacity to repel the aggression of a "world in arms." This is precisely the knowledge, and these are the facts which it will be the purpose of this essay to embody in such a form, as that the plainest citizen may understand the great and soul-inspiring truth—that he belongs to, and constitutes a part of an elevated and powerful nation—a great democratic republic, which, with eighteen millions of people, is, at this moment, for all just and legitimate objects—in all honest pursuits of life, liberty and happiness, the greatest nation and people, on the face of the whole earth! Let no one who dares call himself a man of another people, smile at this assumption—no American will do it—but some may feel incredulous, until they are told how to estimate and compare sixteen millions of freemen, out of eighteen millions of people, with thirty, fifty or an hundred millions of serfs or barbarians, who are ruled by the iron will of a single despot, or a worse than iron will, where the despotism is swayed by a small oligarchy of tyrants—he will then begin to comprehend why it is that a nation of sixteen millions of freemen, amongst whom, intelligence of every kind is extensively diffused, is really the most powerful of nations. If then, this is true, and the union of American States, comprises a greater amount of power to resist oppression, to vindicate right, and to repel wrong, than pertains to the proudest empire of the world, it is certainly a measure of proper expediency that we should investigate and understand the nature and

extent of "The warlike resources of the United States." We shall, therefore, now proceed to the task, and in elaborating the several topics involved in it, we propose to consider, first, the Army or military resources—embracing the Army and Militia under two separate heads,—the *personnel*, and the *material*—and secondly the Navy, under similar heads of discussion and statement.

In accordance, then, with the foregoing proposition, we proceed to state that the *personnel* of the army consists, under the existing organization, since the law of 1838, of 12, 39, of which number 735 are commissioned officers of the line and staff of the army. Of this aggregate it is self-evident that the service counts beyond ten to eleven thousand—and the precise number reported in the last annual return of the Commanding General, (St. Louis) November 29, 1841, was 11,164. This limited force, diminutive as it may seem, comparing it with the population and resources of the republic, is yet deemed too large for the impoverished condition of the government, and beyond the necessities of a frugal peace establishment. In fact, it is not the policy of the federal government to keep up any thing more than the *nucleus* of an army of hired soldiers—nor will the people tolerate any thing more, whilst no imminent peril lends extraordinary pressure to anticipated foreign aggression. No free people with their eyes open, and intellects unclouded, can ever be inveigled into the ruinous and hateful policy of encouraging the growth and diffusion of those habits of indolence, dissipation, and vice, which are the usual concomitants of the idleness and despotism of the camp. All history teems with loud admonition to us as a people, that if we desire to maintain, and are determined to perpetuate the monuments of those glorious institutions, which we inherit from an intrepid and virtuous ancestry, we, like them, must resolve always to "fight our own battles"—and never tolerate for a moment the impotent and pusillanimous sentiment, that we can hire any body—native, foreign, or foreign powers and mercenaries—to defend for us what we can best defend and protect ourselves. We go for the policy that resolves upon, or rather, the leaves with, the body of the people, the largest and broadest responsibilities that are connected with any and all of their inestimable rights of self-government. Among these rights are those imperative obligations, which demand a rigid maintenance of the public laws, ensuring the majesty and welfare of the body politic—and next in importance is the privilege, which should pervade the public mind, with all the fixedness of an inherent, abiding and essential principle, to protect and defend in our own persons, all that pertains to the liberty and independence of our country. In efficiently conserving these great objects and duties, it well becomes us, and is indispensable, that we should be always ready as occasion requires, to go forth *en masse*, and with equal alacrity, whether it be to enforce domestic security, or to repel and drive back in discomfiture, the hostile invader who dares to pollute our soil with his footsteps.

If such a thing were practicable, as to induce four or five thousand native citizens to join the army—and this might be possible under a more legitimate, consistent, and complete army organization—it cannot be doubted by any one, of liberal and enlarged reflection, that such a force would be entirely adequate to subserve all the honest, straight forward, and industrious purposes of a peace establishment. Such a force, too, so composed, instead of proving a band of destructives upon the public resources and munitions of defence, would prove itself actuated by homelike motives of patriotism, and it could never feel or act otherwise than in perfect sympathy with the good order and welfare of the community.

These, in brief, are some of the reasons with which we turn to the true, and safe, and cheap defence of a free people—and we do it in all the pride and exultation which are inspired by the recollection, that some of the noblest, most bloody and successful, of all military defensive enterprises, were achieved, by citizen soldiers—the national guards—the militia—the community. This, in fact, is our only reliance, for the obvious reason, that no army we are able to employ, upon any reasonable system of finance, would be competent to afford the slightest protection to our vastly expanded and every where exposed line of frontier. Already have we experienced, during the vicissitudes of more than half a century of national existence, that we may securely rely upon our capacity to resist oppression, and repel invasion, successfully; and when the nation rises in its might, and scorning the device that meanly seeks to avoid, or by transfer to evade, the price of freedom, goes forth, in the noble panoply of a just cause, it is irresistible in power, and inexhaustible in resources.

Let us descend to the consideration of a few details, in reference to the incredible numbers we can array, of good men and true, in support of all that we hold dear and precious as a nation. If it does not awaken strong impulses and large hopes and aspirations, in the breasts of all the

descendants of revolutionary sires, the blood of such must be thin and poor indeed, and unfit to be shed upon a soil once rich and classic, and rendered so by the magnanimous daring of its earliest settlers. Assuming the number of militia reported by the State of South Carolina, to the United States, on which the State quota of arms is drawn from the government, as a standard for the Union, and the aggregate of all the States, reaches the vast multitude of three millions and upwards, of arms-bearing able bodied freemen. Assuming the similar return, and for similar purposes, of Massachusetts, the mother of American Independence, but where, from various and invalid causes, the militia system is somewhat in disrepute, and not fully enforced, and we shall find upon that standard, a military force, in the Union comprising more than two millions. Taking the reports of Maine, which, though a frontier State, has neglected its militia, and the result gives us about a *million and a half*. The medium furnished by the official reports of these three States, which supply a high, an average, and a low standard for such an estimate, shows beyond a question, that the republic can command in all its righteous purposes, a military force of more than *two millions* of hardy and indomitable soldiers—a force much greater than any other nation under heaven ever dared to trust with arms in their hands. Here is the *personnel* of our military ability as a nation.

We now proceed to exhibit some of the incomplete details of our resources in the material of defensive war, and we shall then pause, leaving the discussion of our second topic, for another and subsequent paper. In resorting to facts to display some of the varieties and extent of our armaments, it is necessary to use such data, as were supplied to Congress in 1841—since which valuable additions have been made to our munitions in every department.

At that time, there were in the charge of the army, 114 brass cannon, 57 brass howitzers, 23 brass mortars, 3,715 iron guns—most of these last of heavy metal, such as are denominated sea coast and siege cannon, of 18, 24, 32 and 42 pounder calibre;—355 iron howitzers, 68 iron mortars, most or all of which are heavy—most adapted to protect a shell of 100 pounds; 555 field carriages, 95 caissons, 67 siege and garrison carriages; 153 sea coast and casement carriages; 400,000 cannon balls; 39,000 bomb-shells; 603,000 pounds of grape and canister shot; 100,000 strapped shot, canister, &c.; 600,000 muskets; 30,000 rifles; 10,000 pistols; 1000 carbines; 15,000 swords and sabres; 500 tons powder; 16,000 cannon cartridges; 5 1-2 millions cartridges for small arms; 200 tons of bullets and buckshot; 12 millions of flints; 200 tons refined nitre, to which a much larger quantity is since added; 180 tons brimstone, to which also there is since a large addition; 1200 tons of lead, and a vast quantity of implements, and equipments, adapted to the service of the different arms, as artillery, cavalry, and infantry. To all these items of munitions, it must be remembered, that considerable additions have been made during the last eight years; as, during the last year, (1841,) among the articles added to the stock, were the following: 34 iron field cannon; 50 brass field cannon; 3160 muskets; 2,550 rifles; 2,000 carbines; 7,200 pistols; 1,500 artillery swords; and numerous other supplies. The annual product of the two national armories, (Springfield and Harpers Ferry,) is equal to 25 or 30,000 muskets, so that in the past eight years, more than 200,000 of them are to be added to the stock of 600,000 reported on hand in 1831. It need not be forgotten in this connection, that the quantity of imperishable munitions in the hands of the separate State authorities, is very nearly equal in every particular, to what is held by the Federal Government. The stock held by the United States is valued at more than fifteen millions of dollars—and the accumulations are steadily progressing under the auspices of every wise and statesmanlike administration that wields the destinies of the republic.

Superadded to all these resources of material, specified or referred to, as secured in the arsenals of the United States, and of the different States, it may be fairly estimated, that there are in the hands of the militia, and sportsmen, at least *half a million* in muskets, rifles, carbines and shot guns, (all of them to be counted as useful in any emergency,) which are private property. Leaving all these out of the account, and it is here demonstrated, that we have the means to arm efficiently, and are able to bring promptly into the field for any defensive operation, more than a million of soldiers, depending on the resources with which, happily we are already furnished. And is not this a fit subject of exultation, adapted to inspire in the body of the people—the militia—the highest order of self-confidence, that, with or without a regular army, great or small, they are abundantly able and willing to defend their homes and fire-sides, and take good care at the same time, that the republic shall neither deteriorate in its character at home, nor receive detriment at the hands of any presumptuous and haughty invader from abroad.

Returning for a moment to the army, we have some views in relation to a new principle of organization, which, however it may be scouted as novelty, or an innovation upon pre-conceived and established usages, we shall offer for precisely what it is worth—and that is, its consideration.

Much is declaimed in and out of Congress upon the alleged abuses that are perpetrated in and by the army. Distinguished and experienced members of the present Congress, representing the most enlightened and populous sections of the union, have lately avowed in their places, that, having regard only to the rights and interests and opinions of their constituents, they were ready for an entire and immediate disbandment of the whole army establishment. "Coming events cast their shadows before"—and it requires no seer to predict that, unless the army as a fixture, can be greatly modified and improved, and rendered more acceptable to the "sovereign people," it is assuredly destined to an early dissolution. Its officers and soldiers, must neither be educated nor permitted to entertain the sentiment, that by any tour of service they become unfitted to earn their subsistence in another vocation. It is only such as were never fitted for the army, who are thus unfitted in it.

In view of the dangers to which the present establishment is exposed, it is believed that a new organization may be devised, which, at a limited maximum in peace, of 5,000 men, would adapt it to the feelings and wishes of the people, and make it every where within its sphere of existence, a popular adjunct and nucleus of our whole military organization, State and Federal. The scheme we propose differs from every other previously suggested, in that it contemplates a sort of direct co-partnership with all the States in establishing and preserving an army efficient for good, and powerless for evil. For the sake of brevity in the illustration, and simplifying the argument, we will suppose the twenty-six States of the Union were nearly equal in size and population, and that each in itself formed a separate military district. That being the case, 5,000 men equally distributed throughout the whole, would give about 200, or a small battalion to each. Now suppose each State is called on to furnish the quota required for duty within its limits, of native citizens, youthful in age, and the term of enlistment in each district divided into several periods,—say those of 18 to 25, for three years—those of 25 to 30, for two years—and those over 30 for five years. By classifying these quotas in the order of their ages, attainments, and wishes, and embracing with their military instruction, a department of common school education—their officers the teachers—the army might become, as it would certainly, an instrument of utility, in the advancement of general intelligence, and the principles of civilization amidst a humble but not unimportant class of our citizens. The army might continue to receive its officers from the military academy, as heretofore—but it might under the general plan of which a mere outline, only, is here sketched, dispense with a large part of its present staff relations—and the whole organization, in clothing the academy, might be so consolidated and brought within such limits as to render it more consistent with the spirit of our political institutions, and temperate, frugal, and industrious, as a small but always expensive appendage to our Government. But the idea of keeping up a standing army of ten, fifteen or twenty thousand men, in a free country, where the people *en masse* rely themselves, merely in anticipation of Indian disturbances, or because it may be rumored that some foreign State envies our national prosperity; or because it rewards and sustains a certain number of worthy officers, who, it is alleged, are not qualified for the laborious pursuits of civil life—is all utterly absurd and preposterous. As to the savages of the frontiers, it is only necessary to remark, that, in the hands of the neighboring settlers, the pioneer hunters, and the nearest militia, the pugnacity of the red man has always been most readily subdued and controlled. Brad-dock's celebrated defeat—St. Clair's repulse—and that last and most extraordinary of all episodes in our history, the Florida humbug—require only to be contrasted with the early colonial Indian wars of the Eastern and Southern States, and the more recent triumphs of Gen. Jackson, where the militia were the exclusive defence—and the demonstration is complete and irrefragable, that the body of the people always succeed best in "fighting their own battles."

One of the arguments employed by the advocates of an increase of the army, and those who contend that the present large establishment ought not to be reduced, is that our exposure to attack from abroad, requires the existence of such a force to repel it, and to ensure the tranquility of the country. Now such views and pretensions might be advanced with some degree of propriety, in countries where government is separated from, and independent of, the people—and where it is essential to protect and defend the government from the people. But apply to the United States, it is one of the greatest conceivable absurdities. Nothing indeed can be more preposterous than the folly of setting apart, in the midst of a free and intelligent people, a large body of men as officers and soldiers, with a design, that they should husband and monopolize all the skill and science of the nation, in the art of defensive war. The notion begets one of the silliest of all possible stratagems, to repose on the credulity of human weakness. It inclines of a wise and brave people to defend their own rights and liberties—and affects solemn mystification upon a subject, which, of all others, is the simplest and most palpable to all who are worthy to enjoy the blessings of a free and liberal system of self-government. Intrepidity of character, and a quiet and determined self-reliance, pervading the minds of a whole people, are qualities which outweigh the value and potency of the largest and best appointed army, that the love of pay, emoluments and personal distinction, has ever assembled in any quarter of the globe. When a nation finds a large army necessary, or even tolerable, in peace, its epoch of declension is at hand. An army is a whole, and in all its parts, is grasping, avaricious and tyrannical in all its propensities. It must have action of some kind, and lacking the stimulus of foreign war, it seeks the good of the few, at the expense of the many, and is always laboring to bring about a change to subserve its own interests. There is a great deal of jargon now-a-days, in reference to the "science of war." Why, any set of freemen can make themselves soldiers in a few weeks time, equal to the best veterans of a mercenary service. The defence of Fort Sullivan, (now Fort Moultrie) furnishes one of the strongest illustrations that need be, of what resolute men can accomplish with no other science, than bravery is always able to draw at sight. In fact, the best fought battles of our revolutionary contest, were such as plain practical good sense will always fight, and where it will always triumph. The miserable sophistry which pretends that a man will fight better, or provide better materials for fighting, if induced to the business from his youth, is quite beyond the credulity of the American people.

The points of discussion suggested in this brief essay are so numerous in themselves, and so important in their relation to the salutary restraints of Government, and the general welfare, that we find it a task of no little difficulty to compress within reasonable limits, for a journal like the *MAGNOLIA*, the thousand acts and illustrations which are educed by the fruitfulness of the theme. We must here, however, reluctantly pause, and, if leisure permits, after we have considered the second branch of our general subject, which we propose to do in the October number, we may then resume the discussion of the subject already examined in this place. In conformity with our design, then, the next topic will embrace the *personnel* and *material* of the Navy, under heads of statement and commentary, similar to the course pursued in these pages.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1842.

GLORIOUS UNCERTAINTY OF THE LAW.

In a certain town in Normandy, the authorities (for diverse good reasons thereunto moving) thought proper to issue a proclamation to the effect that none of the worthy inhabitants, under a severe penalty, should stir about after sunset without a lantern. Well, it chanced in the very same evening a man was seized and inconspicuously taken before the dispenser of justice, to be dealt with according to the new law.

"I am exceedingly sorry," said the chief officer, recognising the individual, "that a citizen of your respectability and station should be the first to infringe the new regulation."

"I would not willingly do so," said the man.

"Have you not read it?"

"Certainly," said the captured party, "but may have unfortunately misunderstood it—Will Monsieur oblige me by reading it, that I may learn of what I am guilty?"

The officer graciously complied, and after glibly running over the verbose preamble, came to the point "that no inhabitant shall stir abroad after sunset without a lantern," which he certainly delivered with peculiar emphasis, to the admiration of the fellow who had taken the man into custody, and was twirling his fingers, impatient to receive his moiety of the fine.

"I have a lantern, Monsieur," firmly contended the man, holding it up to view.

"Yes, but there is no candle in it," replied the officer with a smile.

"The proclamation does not mention a candle, I believe, Monsieur," replied the cunning fellow, most respectfully.

"A candle?—but of course!" began the informer, trembling lest he should lose the fish he had hooked.

It does not mention a candle; and I contend, Monsieur, I have not infringed the law," persisted the quibbler. "The words are—'with a lantern'—and here it is!"

"Hem!" cried the officer, endeavoring to conceal the confusion occasioned by his defeat by poring over the copy of the proclamation. "I must confess there is an omission, and I am happy to give you the benefit of it. The case is dismissed."

The informer was not only defeated, but rather alarmed, when the prisoner called to mind a certain act which rendered him, the aforesaid informant, liable to heavy damages for false imprisonment, &c., and the poor fellow was fain to avert the infliction of an action of the law, by discharging a certain sum in hard cash to the accused.

But in the next evening he again encountered his "dear acquaintance," and to his infinite delight, he beheld the same unilluminated lantern in his hand; for an amended proclamation had been issued that morning, with the words, "that no inhabitant shall stir without a lantern and a candle therein."

The informer chuckled at the ignorance of the man who had so coolly victimized him on the preceding night; and with a heart beating with the desire of revenge, and with a certain prospect of the restitution of the mulet which he has suffered, he with a sneering politeness requested the honor of his company to the justice room.

"Really, it is impossible to resist the amiable importunities of a gentleman who pays such delicate compliments and; such good coin?" replied the man, and away he walked, chatting good humoredly and joking with his delightful captor.

"What, again?" cried the officer.

"I hope Monsieur will do me the honor to remember that my former appearance was not only against my inclination but against the law," said the prisoner.

"Really these proceedings are very vexatious and—"

"Have you read the proclamation?" interrupted the officer.

"Monsieur did me the favor to read it only last night—"

"I will read it again for your edification," replied the officer; and he looked furtively at the informer, who could scarcely contain himself for joy.

The amended proclamation was read. The accused stood placidly smiling at the rignarole verbiage; but when the officer read the concluding words, "that no inhabitant shall stir abroad after sunset without a lantern and a candle," he started.

"Ha!" cried the informer, unable longer to restrain his feelings.

"How very, very fortunate," cried the delinquent, and quickly opening his lantern, continued, "Lo! here is a candle. How fortunate!"

"But it is not lighted!" exclaimed the informer, with an uncontrollable agitation. "It is not lighted, nor has it been, as the wick itself proves?"

"Lantern and candle! a lantern and a candle!" repeated the man. "I appeal to the justice of Monsieur, that there was not such a word as *lighted* candle in any part of that respected document?"

This was a clincher. The parties were completely outwitted; while to abate the fever of the informer's excitement, the man charitably repeated the "bleeding" which he had so effectually performed on the former occasion. Of course the lawyers lost no time in amending the amended proclamation, and inserted *lighted* before the word "candle."

## TARIFF TAXATION.

AMOS KENDALL proposes to digest into two numbers of his *Expositor*, to be printed in one, the arguments and facts as well as those collected by himself, as by members of Congress in the late discussions, showing the practical effects of a protective tariff (so called) on the industry of the country with appropriate illustrations. Taking the tariff bill lately become a law, he will show, with all practicable accuracy, how much the farmers, planters, merchants, traders, mechanics, and other consumers are to pay in taxes upon every yard of cloth, pound of sugar, bushel of salt, plough, axe, and every article of general use and consumption which they purchase for the comfort of their families, and the advancement of their business; to the end that every man may be able to ascertain and bear in mind precisely how much he pays from the products of his labor; or from his income under this system of taxation.

The utmost care will be taken to attain accuracy, both in fact and argument; so that this production shall be a *TEXT-BOOK* to be relied upon, as well by those who seek information, as by those who desire to enter into the arena of discussion.

They will be furnished to subscribers at THREE DOLLARS for 100 copies, or FIFTY CENTS the dozen, to be paid on delivery.

On orders, postage paid or free, enclosing the cash, they will be forwarded by mail at the same prices, or 13¢ cents for a single copy.

The work will be ready for delivery about the 1st of October.

Half a dozen copies will be forwarded to every editor who promptly inserts this notice, and sends his paper containing it.

The *Lexington (Pa.) Independent Press* nominates Gen. Edmund P. Gaines for the next Presidency.

"Harry still lives, Tyler still lives and religion!"

When they are gone, then may we count our Gaines!"